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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

To Blacken Stoves. The fine polish given stoves by those skilled in the art is produced as follows: Have a thin mixture of black varnish and turpentine; apply this with a paint or varnish brush to a portion of the stove; then with a cloth dust this over with pulverized British luster or stove polish; then rub with a dry brush. The stove must be perfectly cold. The stove dealers buy the pulverized stove polish, which is carburet of iron, in twenty-five pound packages. The process conducted in this manner is quite brief, but gives beautiful results.

To Solder Tortoise Shell. Bring the edges of the pieces of shell to fit each other, observing to give the same inclination or grain to each, then secure them in a piece of paper, and place them between hot irons or pincers; apply pressure, and let them cool. The heat must not be so great as to burn the shell, therefore try it first on a white piece of paper.

To Deodorize Rubber. Cover the articles of rubber with charcoal dust, place them in an enclosed vessel, and raise the temperature to ninety-four degrees Fahrenheit, and let it remain thus for several hours. Remove and clean the articles from the charcoal dust, and they will be found free from all odor.

To Transfer Pictures from Paper to Wood for Re-engraving. Soak the print in a saturated solution of alcohol and white caustic potash to soften the ink, then transfer to the black under roller pressure.

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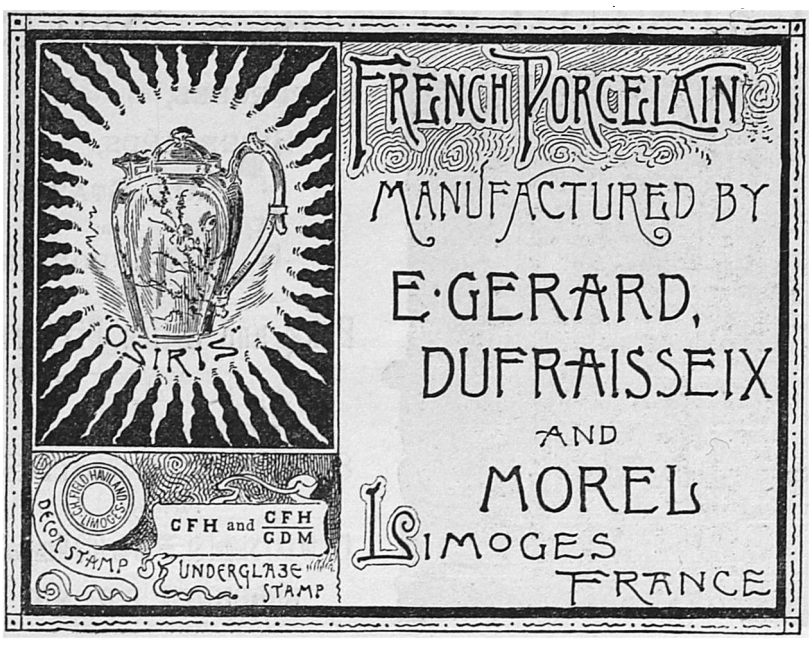

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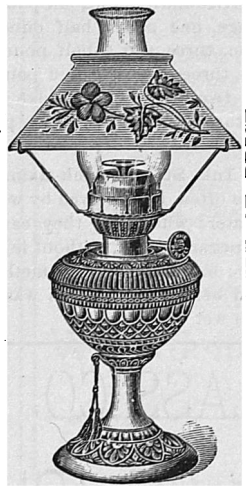

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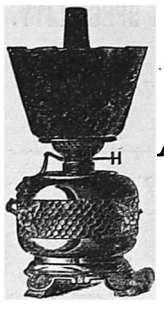

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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

To Remove Ink Stains. 1. When fresh done and wet, hasten to provide some cold water, an empty cup and a spoon. Pour a little of the water on the stain, not having touched it previously with anything. The water, of course, dilutes the ink and lessens the mark; then ladle it up into the empty cup. Continue pouring the clean water on the stain and ladling it up, until there is not the slightest mark left. No matter how great the quantity of ink spilled, patience and perseverance will remove every indication of it. To remove a dry ink stain, dip the part stained into hot milk and gently rub it; repeat until no sign is left. This is an unfailing remedy.

2. Oxalic acid is used for removing ink and rust stains and remnants of mud stains which do not yield to other detergents. It may also be used for destroying the stains of fruits and astringent juices and old stains of urine. However, its use is limited to white goods, as it attacks fugitive colors, and even light shades of those reputed to be fast. The best method of applying it is to dissolve it in cold or lukewarm water, to let it remain a moment upon the spot, and then to rub it with the fingers.

3. Coal oil will take out ink stains, even after they have been washed with soap. Pour on the oil and rub the spot in the hands; if it does not remove it by the first application, try more; the second application will remove it entirely.

4. As soon as the accident happens, wet the place with juice of sorrel or lemon, or with vinegar, and the best hard white soap.

Window Gardening Hints. A very common error in window gardening is that of attempting too much. Too many plants are crowded into the little space at command, so that it is impossible to give each the air and light it should have. Again, plants of two diverse characters are brought together. It is no uncommon thing to see tropical plants and plants from the temperate zone, if not even Alpine plants, all crowded into the same window and subject to the same temperature and treatment. Better far to have one healthy, well-grown plant, that will yield its flowers to perfection, than a dozen sickly, feeble, wretched plants that have no beauty either of leaf or blossom.

Varnish for Frames, etc. Lay the frames over with tin or silver foil by means of plaster of Paris, glue or cement of some kind, that the foil may be perfectly adherent to the wood; then apply your gold lacquer varnish, which is made as follows: Ground tamarac, one pound; powdered gamboge, one and a half ounces; powdered sandarac, three and a half pounds; powdered shellac, three-quarters of a pound; spirits of wine, two gallons; dissolve and strain; then add turpentine varnish, one pint, and it is ready for use.

To remove Ink Stains. Ink-stains in cotton or linen can often be removed by washing in salt and water; while wet they can be taken out with vinegar or milk, without injury to color, or fabric; but either of these methods must be employed before the fabric is washed with soap, or even wet with water.

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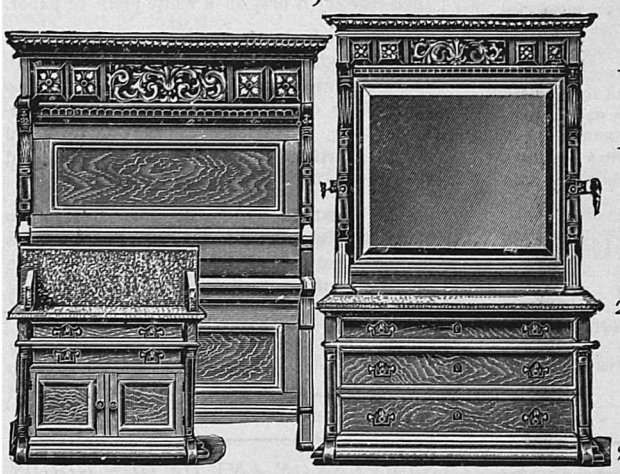

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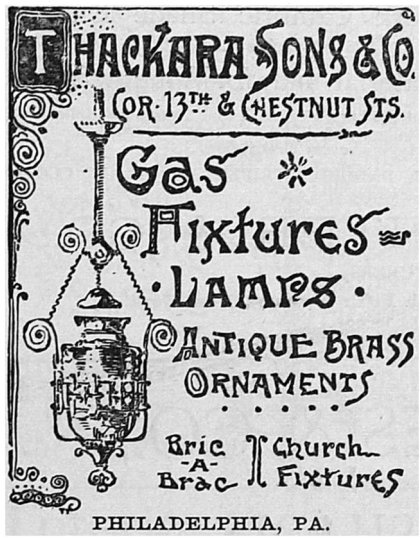

HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Japanning for Old Trays. First clean the old trays thoroughly with soap and water and a little rotten-stone, then dry them by wiping and exposure at the fire; next get some good copal varnish, mix it with some bronze powder, and apply this with a brush to the denuded parts; after which, set the trays in an oven at a heat of two hundred and twelve degrees or three hundred degrees, until the varnish is dry. Two coats will make old trays equal to new.

How to Fit Keys into Locks. When it is not convenient to take locks apart in the event of keys being lost, stolen or missing, when you wish to fit a new key, take a lighted match or candle and smoke the new key in the flame, introduce it carefully into the keyhole, press it firmly against the opposing wards of the lock, withdraw it, and the indentations in the smoked part of the key will show you exactly where to file.

To prevent Lamps Smoking. Soak the wick in strong vinegar, and dry them well before using them. No lamp will smoke with the wicks so prepared, unless they are turned up too high.

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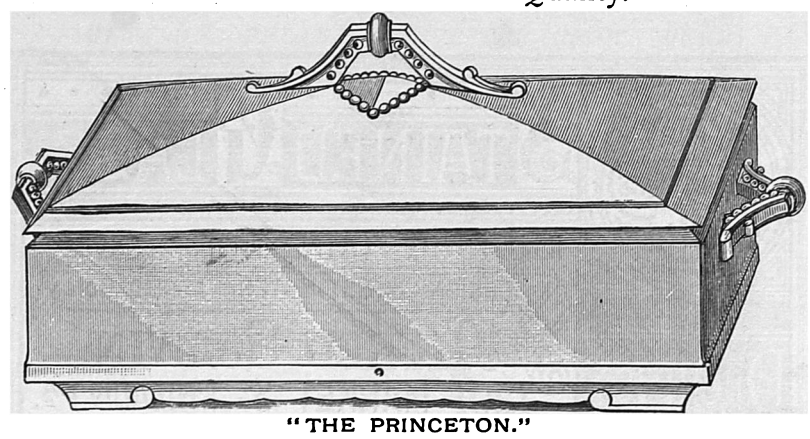

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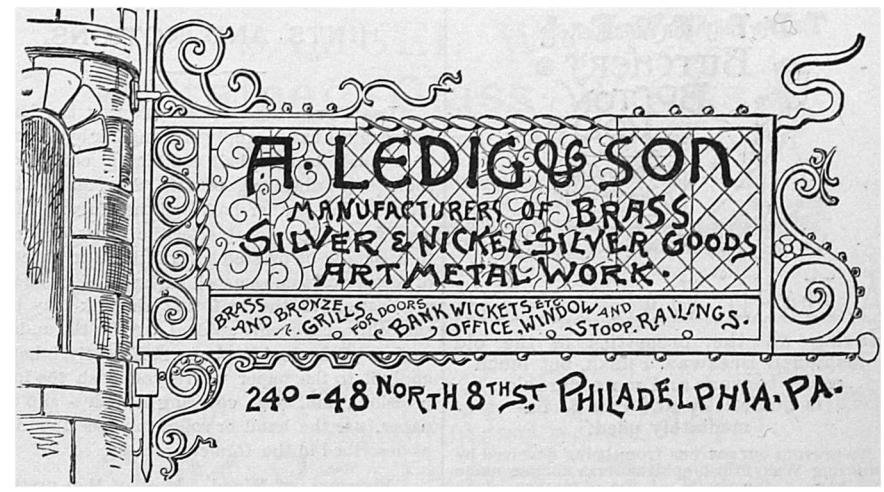

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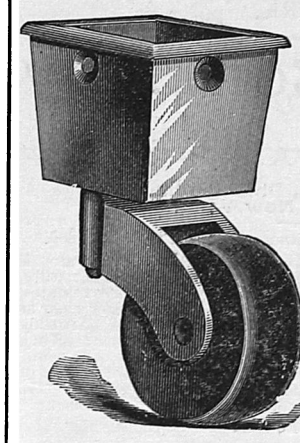

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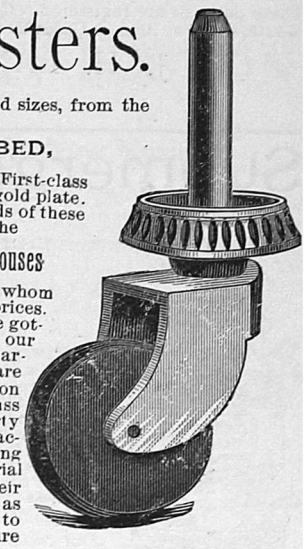

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Placques of Wood. Most of the pretty placques of wood so much used to paint on have no rings on the back, and consequently cannot be hung on the wall. To remedy this get a curtain ring; through this put a loop of ribbon or thin cloth, and glue this loop to the back of the placque. Be sure to have it exactly in the centre, and do not try to hang up until it is perfectly dry.

To Remove Stains from Mahogany. Ingredients: Six parts of spirits of salts, one part of salts of lemon. Mix them and keep them in a bottle, corked. When required for use, drop a little of the mixture on the stains, and rub them until they disappear.

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To Clean Marble. 1. Brush the dust off the dish to be cleaned, then apply with a brush a good coat of gum arabic, about the consistency of a thick office mucilage, expose it to the sun or dry wind, or both. In a short time it will crack and peel off. If all the gum should not peel off, wash it with clean water and a clean cloth. Of course, if the first application does not have the desired effect, it should be applied again.

2. Make a paste with soft soap and whiting. Wash the marble first with it, and then leave a coat of the paste upon it for two or three days. Afterward wash off with warm (not hot) water and soap.

3. Chalk, in fine powder, one part; pumice, one part; common soda, two parts. Mix. Wash the spots with this powder, mixed with a little water, then clean the whole of the stone, and wash off with soap and water.

To Clean Looking-glass. 1. Remove, with a damp sponge, fly-stains and other soils (the sponge may be dampened with water or spirits of wine). After this, dust the surface with the finest sifted whiting or powder-blue, and polish it with a silk handkerchief or soft cloth. Snuff of candle, if quite free from grease, is an excellent polish for a looking-glass.

2. Remove all fly stains and dirt by breathing hard on them and rubbing them with a soft rag, then tie up some powder-blue in a piece of thick flannel, and with this carefully polish the whole surface.

Reflection from Lamps. Never set the lamp upon a red table-cover; if you cannot find time to make a green lamp-mat, put a piece of green cardboard under the lamp, and you will find the reflection upon your work much more agreeable to the eyes than that from the red cover.

To Clean Ivory Ornaments. To clean ivory ornaments, rub them well with fresh butter—*i. e.*, without salt—and put them in the sunshine. Discolored ivory may be whitened by rubbing it with a paste composed of burned pumice-stone and water, and then place it under glass in the sun.

To Remove Dirt and Stains from Marble. A solution of gum arabic will remove dirt and stains from marble. Let it remain till it dries, when it will peel off or can be washed off.

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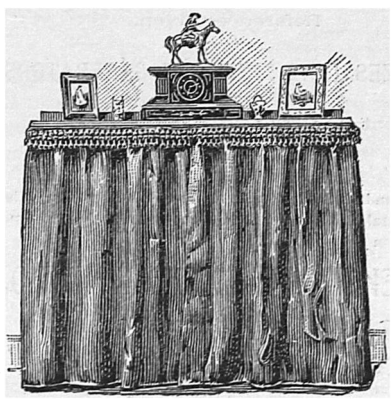
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Paste for Paper-hangings, Books, Paper Boxes, etc. Good wheat flour, sifted, four pounds, make it into a stiff batter with cold water in a pail, beat it well to break the lumps, and then add pulverized alum, two ounces. Into this pour boiling water, hissing hot from the fire, stirring the batter thoroughly all the time. As it cooks it swells and loses its white color, and when cold, will make about three-fourths of a pail of thick paste. Thin with cold water to adapt it for easy use with the brush. For painted or varnished walls, add one-half ounce pulverized resin to each two quarts paste, and reduce the mass with thin gum arabil or glue water. A little pulverized corrosive sublimate will enhance the keeping qualities of paste, but alum used as above will do very well.

Plaster of Paris Cast from a Person's Face. The person must lie on his back, and his hair be tied behind; into each nostril put a conical piece of paper, open at each end, to allow of breathing. The face is to be lightly oiled over, and the plaster being properly prepared, is to be poured over the face, taking particular care that the eyes are shut, till it is a quarter of an inch thick. In a few minutes the plaster may be removed. In this a mold is to be formed, from which a second cast is to be taken, that will furnish casts exactly like the original.

To Give a Rich Color to Mahogany. Ingredients: One pint of cold-drawn linseed oil, ten cents worth of alkanetroot, and five cents worth rose-pink. Put these ingredients into an earthen basin, stir them well and leave them one night; then, having washed the furniture perfectly clean with vinegar, and removed all stains, cover it lightly with the above, on a soft rag. Leave it for some hours, then polish off with linen cloths.

To Imitate Tortoise Shell Paint. Paint a ground of salmon color; then when dry and smoothed off, coat it over with rose pink, mixed in varnish and turpentine; then with a flat piece of glass press on the surface, and remove the glass quickly, being careful not to push it over the paint so as to disturb the curious figures which the pressure will form thereon. Varnish when dry, and you will find you have a beautiful imitation of tortoise shell.

To Imitate Old Oak. To make an exceedingly rich color for the imitation of old oak, the ground is a composition of stone ochre or orange chrome and burnt sienna; the graining color is burnt umber or Vandyke brown, to darken it a little. Observe that the above colors must be used whether the imitation is in oil or distemper. When dry varnish.

To Soften Ivory. In three ounces spirits of nitre and fifteen ounces of spring water, mixed together, put your ivory to soak, and in three or four days it will obey your fingers.

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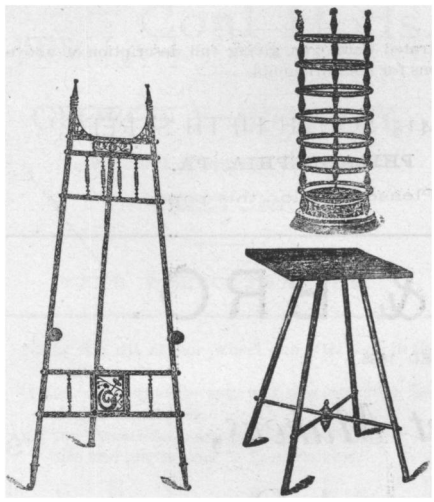

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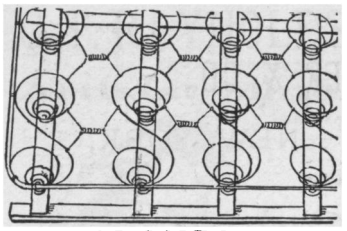

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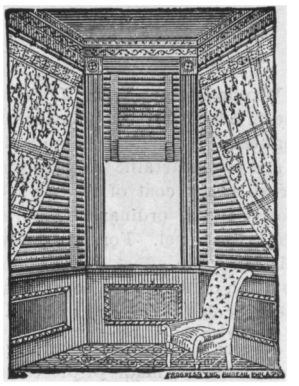

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The first (January) number was published on December 15. The edition of 100,000 copies was exhausted on the day of publication. Second and third editions were put to press at once, and the sale of the first issue has now reached 140,000 copies.

Do not neglect to read Scribner's Magazine

For February. It contains:

JULIUS CÆSAR AS PONTIFEX MAXIMUS. *Frontispiece.* From the Bust in the Museo Chairamonti, in the Vatican. Engraved by W. B. CLOSSON, after a photograph from the original.

THE LIKENESSES OF JULIUS CÆSAR. With illustrations from the author's collection. JOHN C. ROPES.

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SETH'S BROTHER'S WIFE.—Chapters VI.-IX. HAROLD FREDERIC.

THE LAST FURROW. CHARLES EDWIN MARKHAM.

GLIMPSES AT THE DIARIES OF GOUVERNEUR MORRIS. SOCIAL LIFE AND CHARACTER IN THE PARIS OF THE REVOLUTION.—*Second (concluding) Paper.* ANNIE CARY MORRIS.

THE STORY OF A NEW YORK HOUSE.—II. Illustrated by A. B. FROST, F. HOPKINSON SMITH and G. W. EDWARDS. H. C. BUNNER.

OUR NAVAL POLICY.—A LESSON FROM 1861. JAMES RUSSELL SOLEY, U. S. Navy.

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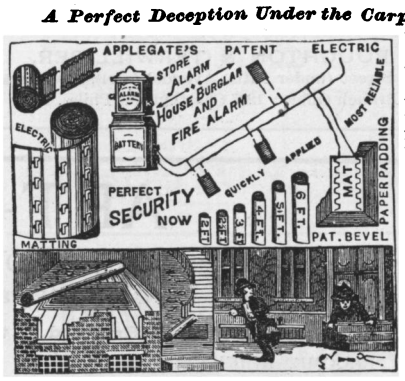

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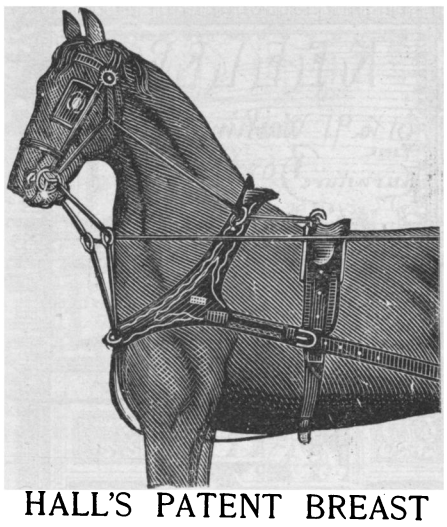

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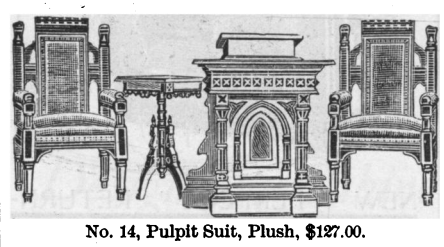

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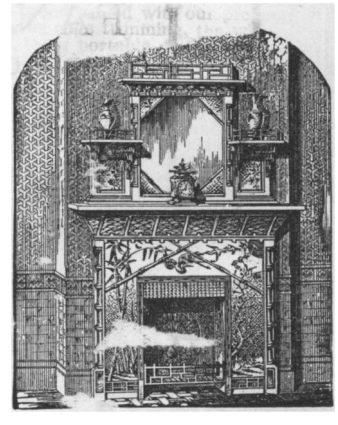

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